

**Graveley Parish Council Meeting
Tuesday 17th October 2017 at 8pm
Held at Graveley Village Hall**

Present: Chair Jack Rigg (JR) Vice Chair Cheryl Norgan (CN) Financial Officer Steve Firth (SF) Tony Bracey (TB) and HCC Steve Jarvis,(SJ)

Members of the public were also present

Apologies – Hilary Napier (HN) and PCSO Phoebe Coates (PC)

Declarations of interest-none

Approval of minutes - The Minutes of the 19th September 2017 were approved and signed.

Matters Arising – None

1. Highways Report

Jack Rigg

a) NHDC Local Plan: The NHDC Examination will start on Monday 13th of November. Members of the public are welcome to attend to listen to the proceedings but only those persons or groups who (i) responded to the Submission Consultation and who (ii) advised the Programme Officer by the 20th October of their intention to speak at the Examination may do so.

Development proposals (NS1) affecting Graveley (Matter 11) are presently scheduled for the morning of Thursday 30th November. JR will attend the examination which starts on Monday 13th November 2017.

Graveley, in conjunction with a number of other NH villages, will also be represented by a Barrister working on behalf of Save Our Green Belt (SOGB) in respect of Green Belt issues, both strategic and in respect of individual village green belt issues. Other issues of concern to individual villages will be dealt with by those villages at the examination.

To support the efforts of SOGB Graveley Parish Council has donated £2,000 towards legal costs to be incurred in opposing the local plan.

b) SBC Plan / Travellers Site – We now await the Inspector’s recommendations.

c) Graveley High Street: Retaining Wall in front of 2 & 4 High Street- Email from Derek Jerrard (Ringway representing NHDC) *The order for these works has been revamped from 2015 and issued to our specialist contractors. We are currently awaiting their program date. Should you feel that the wall is now dangerous, please raise this as a fault report on the Hertfordshire.gov.uk website where it will be triaged by our inspectors and the appropriate safety measures taken.* Clerk to chase up.

JT

d) Traffic Survey- GPC have commissioned a survey of traffic through the village at a cost of £3,000 +Vat to help with our response to the NHDC Local Plan, which has to be sent to the Programme Officer by 3rd November 2017.

e) **Meeting with Bim Afolam-** JR and CN attended a meeting with our local MP together with other representative from Parish Councils in his area, to discuss the NHDC local plan and the building on the Green Belt. Our MP advised he will be having a meeting with NHDC's Councillor Needham and will report back in due course.

2) Planning Report

Tony Bracey

a) None received

b) **1a High Street-**TB reported that he had contacted Steve Braybrooke but the planning application had still to be applied for and at this stage no further information was available. TB to keep an eye on progress.

TB

3. Financial Report

Steve Firth

a) **Bank Account-** Our current and savings account total is £7632.65

4. Playground

Cheryl Norgan

a) **Playground Report-** The missing 'Bungs' have been replaced by Alan Eaton otherwise all is in order.

b) **Hedge Cutting-**The hedge surrounding the playground is in need of cutting back. CN to get quotes.

CN

5. Correspondence Receive-none

6. Matters Arising

a) **Fallen Trees Back Lane-** Clerk contacted Trevor Ward and received the following email on the 17th October 2017- *I have had a price back from our tree contractor and have raised an order for the works to be carried out. Can't give a date at the moment as I know he is busy, rest assured the works will be carried out this financial year.*

b) **Overhanging Trees in Turf Lane-** Email on 29th August 2017 from Tayla Markland of NHH -*I visited the area last week.I have taken pictures and added a job to our Estate Services spreadsheet for the trees to be cut back. This will be carried out in due course. If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.* A local resident had been contact with HH and some work is scheduled for this week. Clerk to keep an eye on the situation and if needs be speak again to Tayla Markland.

JT

c) **Drain covers-** a member of the public reported that a drain cover has sunk over time at the junction of Church Lane with the B197. The remedial work has been carried out.

7. Any Other Business

a) **Request for support from Save our Green Belt in North Herts (SOGB)** – Councillors unanimously confirmed the contribution of a donation of £2,000.00 to SOGB to support their Legal

Costs Representation to fight development on the Green Belt by NHDC. The donation to SOGB was made under Section 137A of the 1972 Local Government Act.

b) Open Day/ Fund Raising- Currently GPC has been able to fund all the professional help required to support the Parish Council oppose the Local Plan. However this situation may change depending on the Inspector's recommendation to the SBC and NHDC plans and therefore it may be appropriate to put in place a Village Fund Raising Committee, separate and distinct from GPC, so that we as a Village are able to respond on a timely basis to a need for additional funds to engage legal advice on any future Local Plan issues. A general fund raising without a specific cause / issue was felt to be inappropriate and would not be well received.

c) Resignations

(i) JR as Chair has tendered his resignation to take effect from the 16th December 2017 once the Local Plan examination has been completed.

(ii) SF has indicated that he would resign as Treasurer in April of 2018.

The GPC wish to thank both of them for all the hard work and commitment they have been involved in over the years. There will, in due course, be two vacancies and at the appropriate time the Clerk will put the necessary wheels in motion.

JT

d) St Mary's Church- a request for a contribution towards the cost of grass cutting in the churchyard was discussed, SF suggested a grant of £1,000.00 this was agreed, with one abstention, by the other members. This will be paid at the November 2017 meeting.

e) Traffic Problems in Ashwell Common/Oak Lane-a local resident has raised concerns regarding parking and speeding in Ashwell Close and Common. This problem has come up before and the GPC can only advise residents with concerns to contact our local PCSO Phoebe Coates at Phoebe.Coates@herts.pnn.police.uk regarding parking problems and Herts County Councillor Steve Jarvis at steve@sjarvis.cix.org.uk on speeding issues and request if speed restrictions could be put in place. Clerk to write to the resident with this information.

JT

f) Planning Resource magazine-CP has requested that we renew the subscription (for a year it is £195.00) it was agreed that we would be prepared to renew for six months. CP to find out the cost and if it possible to do so-to report at next meeting of GPC.

CP

8. Cheques Issued

a) SOGB donation to the 'Fighting Fund' £2,000.00

b) Clerks Petty Cash £108.09

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm

**The next GPC meeting will be at Graveley Village Hall
On Tuesday 21st November 2017**